

ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2013-2014

MISSION

The mission of the South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council is to provide leadership in planning, funding, and implementing initiatives that lead to improved quality of life for people with developmental disabilities and their families through advocacy, capacity building, and systemic change.

South Carolina focuses on four priority areas: **Community Supports, Employment, Health** and **Quality Assurance/Self-Advocacy**. Each area addresses specific needs as outlined in the Developmental Disabilities Council State Plan. The plan is developed by the council and grants are funded based on specified criteria.



South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council Members



YLF Participants exchange ideas during their annual event.

PURPOSE

The South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council was established in 1971 by Executive Order of the Governor and was reauthorized in 2010. Not less than 60% of the total Council membership is consumers and family members. Additional members come from state agencies, DD Act partners and non-governmental organizations.

The Council is federally funded under the Developmental Disabilities Act. Activities focus on consumer-family centered systems. This comprehensive system includes individualized support, community services and other forms of assistance which promotes self-determination. The implementation of these services and initiatives lead to improved quality of life for persons with disabilities and their families; helping them to feel and become an integral part of their surrounding community.



Kimberly Fontanez, DD Council Grants Administrator, with Dawn Darby, Executive Director of Bridges, The Therapy Place at their Christmas event. This is a grant supported by the DD Council.

“A Note from the Chair”



Amy Davenport, DD Council Chairperson

This year, the DD Council funded 33 grants to provide compelling programs to South Carolinians with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This includes providing one of the largest grants in Council history to help revise and extend the Palmetto State’s ability to assist young adults with transitioning out of high school. We are proud to work with our partners throughout the state to help future generations of people with disabilities enter the workforce or attend college.

The Council continues to make strides in advancing our mission and state goals. We expect to welcome new partners this year and remain active and vigilant in advocating and improving the living conditions for people with disabilities. Our continued goal for people with developmental disabilities is to ensure confidence that the DD Council will continue to promote their rights throughout the state.

I am excited about the upcoming year and I want to thank all of our Council members for their hard work and dedication. I want to say an extra special thank you to all of our grantees who bring our mission into fruition. Being able to witness the impact of the work being done brings added value to our efforts and makes all of our success stories more meaningful.

VALUES STATEMENT

The South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council believes:

- Families are the foundation of our society
- An individual with developmental disabilities may provide additional challenges in the family.
- A coordinated system of support is critical to the individual, family members and community to foster independence, productivity and inclusion into the community setting.
- Individuals and family members should be actively involved in the decision making process for supports and services.

SOUTH CAROLINA PRIORITY AREAS:

COMMUNITY SUPPORTS, EMPLOYMENT, HEALTH, SELF-ADVOCACY

COMMUNITY SUPPORTS: Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities will have increased participation and choices about their community based services and supports and increased community participation.

Objective 1: Will provide funding and/or resources to improve access to information for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families about services, supports, and their rights.

- **Family Connection - Wait List Support (Jasper, Oconee, Lee, Georgetown, Aiken)**

Objective 2: Will support at least 1 innovative project that improves socialization skills leading to greater community participation for children and/or adults with severe disabilities.

- **Project Hope – Extended Hope**
- **Current Transitions – Eagle Project**
- **Arc of the Midlands – Kick It**
- **Disability Resource Center (AccessAbility) – Independent Living Skills**
- **Roger C. Peace – UCAN (Upstate Community Abilities Network)**

Objective 3: Will support a minimum of 1 emerging issue that will result in an increase in people with intellectual and developmental disabilities being active participants in the communities of their choice.

- **Arc of South Carolina – Rec-Connect/Arc Works**
- **Arc of South Carolina – Life Lessons**
- **Arc of the Midlands – Mixed Greens**

- ❖ **658** Received advocacy training
- ❖ **367** System advocates
- ❖ **135** Other organizations involved
- ❖ **113** Policy changes/creations/improvements
- ❖ **2,694** General public reached



EMPLOYMENT: People with intellectual and developmental disabilities are given the education/training, knowledge, experience, accommodations and supports they need to achieve meaningful community-based employment.

Objective 1: Will promote programs that facilitate the acquisition of academic training, interpersonal skills and work experience for high school students with intellectual and developmental disabilities to enable success in long-term employment.

- **Center for Disability Resources – TASC Expansion (Transition Alliance of South Carolina)**
- **Center for Disability Resources – SC TEAM (Transition & Employment Advancement Model)**

Objective 2: Will support initiatives that provide enhanced employment opportunities for students with severe disabilities.

- **York One – Student + Job Coaches = Job Success**
- **Project Hope – Virtual Hope**
- **Community Options – STEP for SC (School to Employment Program)**
- **SOS Healthcare – Consignment Shop**
- **Clover School District – Ready, Set to Go to Work**
- **Able South Carolina – Project Inclusion**
- **Arts Access – Project Real**
- **Arc of the Midlands – Project Search**

Objective 3: Will increase knowledge of self-advocates about the principles of self-determination and employment opportunities of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

- **Partner for Transition Conference, with Able SC & P & A – Mapping Your Future**

Objective 4: Will create a minimum of 1 position statement and policy recommendations that will support successful employment outcomes for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

- ❖ **996** Received advocacy training
- ❖ **780** System advocates
- ❖ **204** Other organizations involved
- ❖ **254** Policy changes/creations/improvements
- ❖ **3,206** General public reached

HEALTH: The South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council will collaborate with partners and community providers to increase activities to promote the improved health and well-being of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in South Carolina.

Objective 1: Will support a minimum of 5 existing or new programs and/or services that include evidence based approaches to wellness promotion and prevention of secondary conditions.

- **Lander – Equestrian Assisted Activities**
- **Therapy Place – Bridges**
- **PRO Parents – Take Control**
- **Arc of South Carolina – Walk This Way**
- **Babcock Center – Everybody Talks**
- **Bamberg County Disability and Special Needs – PBEE (Promoting Better Eating and Exercise)**
- **York County Adult Day Care Services, Inc. – Move to Wellness**

Objective 2: Will educate coaches, athletic professionals, school nurses, parents and athletes in a minimum of 40 school districts and 23 recreation departments on the importance of reducing the incidence of sports related brain injury among youth.

- **Brain Injury Association of SC – SC Concussion Education Initiative**

Objective 3: Will support increased capacity for autism screening and diagnostic evaluations.

- **USC Dept. of Psychology – Autism Diagnostic Services**

Objective 4: Will inform the public about the availability of accessible recreation, prevention, wellness and exercise opportunities.

- **Page on DDC Website – resources continue to be added and updated.**

Objective 5: Will support a minimum of one technical school/program to incorporate course content and/or courses on health and disability into their health sciences department(s) for professionals and paraprofessionals and provide associated activities.

- **Courses developed and continued to be distributed.**

- ❖ **1951** Received advocacy training
- ❖ **295** System advocates
- ❖ **225** Other organizations involved
- ❖ **136** Policy changes/creations/improvements
- ❖ **1,604** General public reached

QUALITY ASSURANCE/SELF-ADVOCACY: The South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council will partner with self-advocates to strengthen advocacy statewide, provide leadership training to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and increase participation in cross-disability and leadership coalitions.

Objective 1: Will support a statewide self-advocacy organization to assist in strengthening and meeting defined organizational goals.

- **Center for Disability Resources – IMPACT SC (Individuals Motivating People to Achieve Change Together in South Carolina)**

Objective 2: Will support at least 150 self-advocates in leadership training opportunities.

- **PRO Parents –Partners in Policymaking**
- **PRO Parents –Youth Leadership Forum**

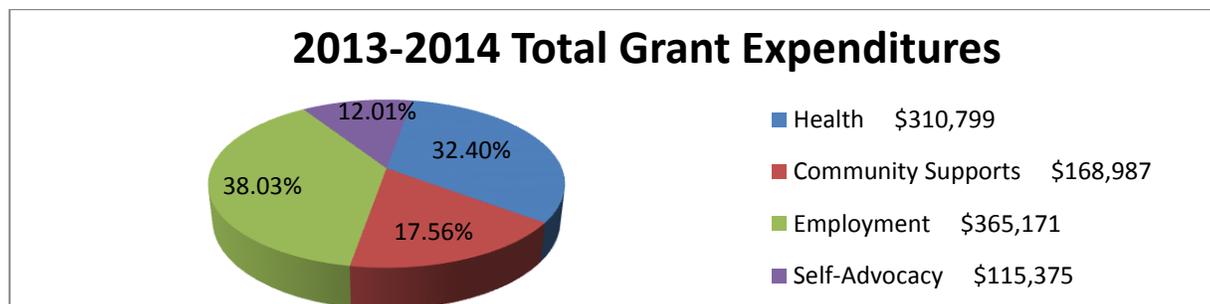
Objective 3: Will identify and implement replicable strategies in at least 2 school districts/areas which support the development of self-advocacy skills for youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

- **National Youth Leadership Network – Self Advocacy – Power In Numbers**

- ❖ **585** Received advocacy training
- ❖ **294** System advocates
- ❖ **14** Other organizations involved
- ❖ **29** Policy changes/creations/improvements
- ❖ **502** General public reached

Conference Grants: Each year the DD Council funds conference grants which support initiatives to increase and enhance the knowledge for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. These conferences bring together a wealth of information, providers, and service organizations who support the DD Council Mission and State Plan along with heightening awareness and enhancing resources.

- **University of South Carolina Genetic Counseling Conference**
- **Family Connection – Hopes & Dreams Conference**
- **Brain Injury Association of South Carolina – Life with Brain Injury**
- **Bright Start Early Intervention Conference**
- **Respite Coalition Respite Summit Conference**
- **Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder Collaborative Fall Forum**
- **Special Olympics of SC Youth Activation Conference**
- **University of South Carolina Technology Exposition**



2013-2014 Grant Year Expenditures = \$960, 332



It has certainly been an exciting year for the Council. We are seeing excellent results from our new grants that began in July, 2014. Additionally, our second and third year grants have really been having a significant impact on the people and communities they are serving. We are proud to be partnering with so many organizations that are helping us to achieve successes for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. I would like to say thank you to all of our wonderful grantees and those we collaborate with across the state. We look forward to continuing to help individuals become more independent and integrated into their communities.

Best regards,

Valarie Bishop
Executive Director

South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council

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